

**State of Michigan
Michigan Department of Agriculture
Commission of Agriculture**

**Pridgeon Conference Room, 4th Floor, Ottawa Building
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 1998**

PRESENT:

Douglas E. Darling, Chairperson, Commission of Agriculture
Deanna Stamp, Vice Chairperson, Commission of Agriculture
Jordan B. Tatter, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture
James E. Maitland, Commission of Agriculture
Shirley A. Skogman, Commission of Agriculture
Dan Wyant, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ron Zellar, Assistant Attorney General
Michigan Department of Agriculture Staff
Brad Deacon (p.m. only), Governor Engler's Office
Tom Frazier, Senator Spencer Abraham's Office
Mike Frederick, Senator George McManus' Office
Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau
Bob Naerebout, Independent Cooperatives Milk Producers Association
Virginia Zeeb
Mike Kovacic, Michigan Farm Bureau
Dick Lehnert, *Michigan Farm's and Country Journal*

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CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Darling called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Secretary Tatter called the roll with all Commissioners and Director Wyant present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Skogman moved to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Tatter moved to accept the March 11-12, 1998, minutes as presented. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next Commission of Agriculture meeting will be held June 10-11, 1998, in Monroe, Michigan, at the Monroe County MSU Extension Office, 963 South Raisinville Road, Monroe, Michigan.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONERS= PER DIEM TRAVEL AND EXPENSES

MOTION: Commissioner Tatter moved to approve Commissioners' per diem and travel to attend the following:

--Commissioner Stamp, Women's National Farm and Garden Association Annual Meeting, May 1, 1998, Grand Rapids, Michigan

--Commissioner Darling, Michigan Senate Agriculture Committee Hearing, March 19, 1998, Alpine Township, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Washtenaw County Purchase of Development Rights Meeting, April 20, 1998, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Metro Detroit Urban Sprawl Meeting, University of Detroit/Mercy, May 5, 1998, Detroit, Michigan

--Commissioner Maitland, Dairy Industry Meeting, March 26, 1998, Lansing, Michigan; Rural Development Council of Michigan Annual Meeting, April 23, 1998, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

MOTION: Commissioner Stamp moved to approve Director Wyant's travel to attend a meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, Illinois, on April 21, 1998 and Food Export Show, in Chicago, Illinois, on May 3-4, 1998. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

MOTION: Commissioner Tatter moved to approve a Commission of Agriculture Resolution honoring Barry Brand, retired chair of the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Wyant stated that Mr. Brand would be invited to an upcoming Commission meeting for a formal presentation. Robert Bender was recently appointed by Governor Engler as chair of the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Darling congratulated Commissioner Tatter on receiving the 1998 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award "*Man of the Year*" of the Michigan Frozen Food Packers Association.

COMMISSIONERS= COMMENTS

Commissioner Jordan Tatter reported that southwestern and western Michigan fruit crops are at least two weeks ahead of last year and more than a week ahead of normal. Sweet and tart cherries, as well as apples and blueberries, received freeze damage since the last Commission meeting. This injury is seemingly confined to southwest Michigan and is not uniform across the region. West Central and Northwest fruit production areas have apparently escaped damage and a large fruit crop potential is being predicted. Row crops are going in and growing without a hitch in his corner of the state. Asparagus growers agreed to a lower price from processors than a year ago; however, excellent yields may make up the difference.

Commissioner Tatter participated in the following events and meetings:

- Rural-Urban Day conducted by the St. Joseph, Michigan Rotarians. Director Wyant was the guest speaker to a luncheon group of about 200. Following his presentation, the Director and Dave Pike met with a delegation of *"Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan."*
- A board meeting of a public refrigerated warehousing firm from Minnesota that was held in Florida.
- A discussion session with Senator Gast, Representative Jelinek and a dozen local agricultural interests at the Michigan State University-Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center.
- The first day of the Natural Resources Commission two-day meeting in St. Joseph, Michigan.
- The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association annual meeting.
- The Michigan Frozen Food Packers Association April meeting held in South Haven. Kirk McCreary, general manager of MBG Marketing was the speaker.
- The International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses and The Refrigeration Research and Education Foundation annual meetings held in California.
- The Berrien County Lincoln Day Dinner at which Governor Engler was the speaker.
- Hosted a national food processing company to a vacant food processing plant site tour in Hartford, Michigan.

(A complete copy of Commissioner Tatter's report can be found as Attachment C.)

Commissioner Stamp reported that Dale-Stamp Farms hosted a tour in February for a group of farmers from the Ukraine. These farmers were very interested in U.S. agricultural practices. Commissioner Stamp attended the Michigan Bean Shippers annual meeting in March. She stated that navy bean acreage will be down and black bean acreage will be up with increased plantings in the color varieties. Canada has been a large competitor in the navy bean market for many years and is showing the same projections as in Michigan.

Commissioner Stamp attended the Women's National Farm and Garden Association meeting on May 1. She stated that this is a very interesting group which spends a lot of time involved in civic and community service.

She reported that the spring planting in the Thumb area and in the middle of the state is on schedule. She stated that in some areas planting is ahead of schedule. Corn planting is about 90 percent complete and soybeans about one-third complete. Sugar beets have gone in the ground in good condition and it is hoped that Michigan growers will have another good year.

Commissioner Skogman reported that planting is about two weeks ahead of schedule, but the ground is extremely dry. There has been no snow on the ground in the area since April and little or no rain. The fire danger is extremely high. Some farmers in the area have halted planting because of the dry conditions.

Commissioner Skogman requested that the fruit and vegetable inspector in her area be equipped with a cell phone or a pager, which would allow for easier and faster contact. She also expressed concern about the recertification of the Snowden seed and the decision made by the Michigan Seed Potato Association. Commissioner Skogman commented on recent news articles that have addressed the area's deer situation. She understands that people who are farmers have a different understanding than hunters. Each looks at the deer situation from a different perspective.

Commissioner Maitland reported that he attended the followings events and/or meetings:

- Michigan Horse Expo, Grand Rapids
- Dairy Industry Meeting, Lansing. He appreciated the cooperative spirit of all parties.
- Televised Satellite Link discussing the Food Quality Protection Act, held at the MSU Engineering Building and hosted by the Michigan Farm Bureau.
- Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association annual meeting.
- One day of the two-day Rural Development Council of Michigan annual meeting in Mt. Pleasant.

Commissioner Maitland reported that cherries in northern Michigan are three to four weeks ahead of last year and two weeks ahead of normal.

Commissioner Darling thanked Commissioner Maitland, Director Wyant and the legislators involved in working toward a resolution on the State Milk Order issue.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Darling congratulated Deputy Director Keith Creagh on his award as an Honorary Alumnus of Michigan State University.

He reported that the fields in southeast Michigan are very wet and planting is behind schedule. Commissioner Darling attended the Michigan Senate hearing on the Food Quality Protection Act. He distributed copies of a letter to Congressman Dingell, an article from *Parenting* magazine, and a Detroit News article. *(All are on file in the Commission office.)*

Commissioner Darling participated in the Ultimate Farmland Preservation Tour that toured eight counties in Pennsylvania and Maryland. He said that since the tour he has attended and spoke at two different church organizations--the Metropolitan Organization of Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES) which is comprised of 30 different churches in the Detroit area, and also Working for a Just World. He stated that both of these groups are very concerned about land use and farming issues. They expressed their concern about today's values and how those values relate to the rural lifestyle. It is critical that we work together to improve our urban cities. He agrees that the only way to save farmland is to save the cities. People will move out of urban areas if improvements are not made.

Commissioner Darling attended various meetings in Washtenaw County where the topic of discussion concerned a 4-mill ballot proposal for purchase of development rights. He also has been involved in many discussions about TB, ethanol, livestock permits and limitations on fertilizer. The National Farmers Cooperative Association testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee regarding its concern about the Mississippi Waterway and the work that needs to be done to make it a viable shipping route for transporting grain.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT - Vicki Pontz-Teachout, Legislative Liaison, distributed copies of the April 1998 Bill Status. She updated the Commission on the status of the following bills:

- HB 4337 (Drain Code) hopefully will be passed out of the House Committee and reach the floor of the House before summer adjournment.
- HB 5620, 5621, 5622, 5623 (Clean Michigan Initiative General Obligation Bonds) are currently on the House floor and there is discussion about attaching two bills that would create a Farmland Trust Fund.
- HB 5752 (Gypsy Moth) is before the House Agriculture Committee and would allow township assessments for the control and suppression of Gypsy Moth.
- HB 5754 (Bedding/Feed) expands the farm registration plates to include the transporting of livestock bedding and feed.
- HB 5792 and 5793 (Soil Conservation District) would update the Conservation District Law and would be tie-barred to a bill allowing a board of county commissioners to put a millage for conservation districts on the ballot.
- SB 485 (Swine Feeding License) has been reported favorably out of the Senate Farming, Agribusiness and Food Systems Committee without amendment.
- SB 1025 (Food Processors) is currently in the Senate Farming, Agribusiness and Food Systems Committee. The bill protects fruit, vegetable, grain and dairy processors from nuisance complaints and sets up a complaint response system similar to the Right to Farm program.
- SB 1093 (Livestock Composting) is in committee and allows for composting of dead livestock.
- Senate Resolution 151 (Food Quality Protection Act) clarifies standards under FQPA and increases support for certain food quality protection efforts.
- Senate Resolution 163 (Pesticides on Food Imports) bans importations of produce and other perishable items from foreign countries where certain pesticides are allowed.

Director Wyant reported that MDA's budget has passed the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Project GREEN funds have been increased from \$4 million to \$5.4 million, with \$400,000 designated for an export program.

Ms. Pontz-Teachout distributed copies of the Department of Agriculture Joint Committee on Administrative Rules that have been rescinded. The 17 rules are over 20 years old and have been superceded either by statute, federal regulation or new rules. Director Wyant and Ms. Pontz-Teachout recommended Commission approval to rescind the 17 rules.

MOTION: Commissioner Maitland moved that the Commission of Agriculture approve the rescinding of the 17 rules as presented. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF DALE POSTHUMUS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE SPECIALIST AND LINDA JONES, GRAPE AND WINE PROGRAM MANAGER -- Karen Wenk, Marketing and Communications Division

Karen Wenk, Marketing and Communication Division, introduced Dale Posthumus, the new international trade specialist. She also introduced Linda Jones, the new Grape and Wine program manager. The Commission and Director welcomed Ms. Jones and Mr. Posthumus to the department.

UPDATE ON BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS – Dr. H. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian and Director of the Animal Industry Division

Dr. H. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian, updated the Commission on the current status of bovine tuberculosis in Michigan. As of today, Michigan's tuberculosis free accreditation is intact for cattle as no positive *M. bovis* culture has been found in cattle. A large number of beef and dairy herds have been tested in the five-county area. Dr. Chaddock explained that in any population of animals, there always would be a certain number that will react to the test even though they do not have tuberculosis.

There are eight farms in which a small number of animals receiving the more definitive comparative cervical test responded as suspects and a couple of those animals are in the reactor range. There have been animals destroyed and lymph node tissue sent to the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory for further testing and confirmation. Most of the animals tested thus far have come back as negative, but not all test results have been received. Dr. Chaddock explained that the Michigan State University laboratory collects and inspects the tissue that is sent to the USDA laboratory.

Dr. Chaddock stated that during the next few weeks, the first priority is to have all cattle and goats, six months of age and older, located within a five-mile radius of any known TB positive deer, tested. Eighty-five to 90 percent have been tested to date. The second priority is to have all dairy herds tested in the five-county area by the end of October. It is also a goal to identify all beef breeding herds in the five-county area, to visit the farms, to educate the farmers about TB, to answer questions and to develop herd plans for testing by the end of October. The department would like to have all animals—cattle and goats—in the five-county area tested by the end of April 1999.

Dr. Chaddock discussed a cattle herd identified last week, located within a five-mile radius where a positive deer was found. This herd of 20 Angus cattle has been tested and three responded. Two animals were cleared after the comparative cervical test, but one plotted in the reactor zone. This animal has been destroyed, sent to the MSU laboratory, and tissues sent to the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). On the necropsy at the MSU laboratory, the animal had lymph nodes that could be compatible with TB infection. Culture results are pending at the NVSL. The herd is under quarantine.

Commissioner Tatter asked if the department is researching this particular herd's history. Dr. Chaddock responded that staff is working with the owner in compiling information about the herd.

Director Wyant emphasized that this animal is not confirmed with TB. However, the department is not denying the compatibility of what has been seen at the laboratory. It is the department's desire to be straightforward with the public, the Legislature and the industry. He also stated that there continues to be an excellent partnership between departments. The feeding ban and coordination between the departments is ongoing. Dr. Chaddock, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University, and local prosecutors have held

team meetings to discuss the enforcement mechanisms.

Commissioner Stamp asked if a farmer should be billed for the transportation costs to truck a suspect animal. Dr. Chaddock responded that either MDA or USDA would cover the cost of transporting a suspect animal. However, USDA is prohibited from paying the trucking costs directly to the farmer; it would be paid directly to the transporting company.

Director Wyant discussed the indemnification cap. He stated that by statute MDA does have a cap of \$1,250 per head that can be paid. However, there are high-producing herds in the five-county area and this amount does not satisfy the value. MDA has discussed the idea of increasing the cap with Governor Engler's office, Senator George McManus, Michigan Farm Bureau and industry.

Commissioner Maitland inquired as to whether or not the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is issuing off-season hunting permits. Director Wyant responded that he and Dr. Chaddock have visited the area and found that many farmers are reluctant to use the permits because of the harassment by and opinions of some of their neighbors. Not everyone agrees with harvesting deer during the off-season.

Director Wyant feels that education is key to informing the public on the effects of tuberculosis and why it is important to control the deer population. He stated that MDA has sent mailings to livestock producers and convenience store/gasoline station operators in the enforced restriction area. These mailings include a letter discussing the tuberculosis situation, a telephone/address contact list, frequently asked questions on bovine tuberculosis, the bovine tuberculosis eradication strategy, and a copy of the Enforced Restriction Area Order. He believes that other departments are doing constituent mailings as well.

BRIEFING ON GENERAL FARM PRACTICES FOR DEER FEEDING BAN – Dr. Kurt Thelen, Director of Environmental Stewardship Division and Kevin Kirk, Michigan Farm Bureau

Dr. Kurt Thelen, Director of the Environmental Stewardship Division, discussed the Enforced Restriction Area Order for White-tailed Deer and Elk Feeding Ban, Normal Agricultural Practices. A task force representing Michigan Farm Bureau, DNR, MDA and three individual farmers from the area met to define the normal agricultural practices.

Kevin Kirk of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Dr. Thelen reviewed the proposed practices with the Commission. The proposed practices state that a person shall not allow feed used for livestock to remain in areas frequented by wild, free-ranging, white-tailed deer and elk unless the area is occupied by livestock actively consuming the feed on a daily basis, or unless the feed is covered so as to prevent wild, free-ranging, white-tailed deer and elk from gaining access to the feed.

Commissioner Tatter suggested that the word "prevent" be used throughout the document instead of the word "minimize."

Director Wyant commented that this is a difficult issue for MDA. In some case we are asking farmers to change management practices to avoid inadvertently feeding deer. He and Ron Zellar of the Attorney General's Office have discussed the issue at great length. Mr. Zellar will be meeting with local prosecutors. It is important that we are consistent in the enforcement response.

Dr. Kurt Thelen thanked the agencies and producers involved in the preparation of this document. Director Wyant also recognized the work of all those who worked together in coordination, yet independently, to put this document together.

UPDATE ON PSEUDORABIES STATUS – Dr. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian and Director of the Animal Industry Division

Dr. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian and director of the Animal Industry Division updated the Commission on the current status of pseudorabies in Michigan. He reported that as of today there are 10 herds quarantined for pseudorabies. Nine of the 10 are in Cass County and one is in St. Joseph County. He stated that nine of the 10 herds have cleared once, but there has been some reinfection. The tenth herd has been under quarantine for a number of years. The goal is to have all herds off quarantine and pseudorabies cleared by the end of

September 1998.

UPDATE ON FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT – Kenneth Rauscher, Director of Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division; Dr. Christine DiFonzo, Pesticide Education Program of Michigan State University

Kenneth Rauscher, director of the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division and Dr. Christine DiFonzo of Michigan State University updated the Commission on the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

Mr. Rauscher distributed copies and reviewed a memo written by Vice President Al Gore to Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and EPA Administrator Carol Browner and their response.

Dr. DiFonzo and Mr. Rauscher reviewed the FQPA grant proposal's goals and objectives. MDA proposes to target commodities for examination in the sampling program that will focus on commodity and pesticide application records to collect data on pesticide use. It is a two-phase sampling program to target EPA data gaps and communicate data directly to EPA. Dr. DiFonzo stated that they have had some difficulty in getting processors to participate in the project.

Commissioner Tatter suggested that Terry Morrison of the Michigan Food Processors Association might provide some assistance.

Director Wyant recognized the partnership that exists between MSU, MDA and agriculture organizations on this issue. He appreciated the leadership provided by MSU and the Michigan Farm Bureau in getting producers to participate in the project. He also recognized Senator Abraham's support, as well as the support of other members of Michigan's Congressional delegation. A 40-member national advisory committee has been established by the US-EPA consisting of a broad range of interested parties. Dr. Mark Whalon from MSU has been asked to serve on that advisory committee.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 12:40 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PESTICIDE UTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL – Dr. Christine DiFonzo, Pesticide Research Program, Michigan State University

Dr. Christine DiFonzo of Michigan State University reviewed the revised Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control. Dr. Kurt Thelen, director of the Environmental Stewardship Division recommended Commission approval of the practices.

MOTION: Commissioner Tatter moved to approve the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control as presented. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR NUTRIENT UTILIZATION – Dr. Maurice Vitosh, Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University

Dr. Maurice Vitosh of Michigan State University reviewed the revised Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for Nutrient Utilization. Dr. Kurt Thelen, director of the Environmental Stewardship Division recommended Commission approval of the practices.

Commissioner Tatter recommended that a list of the committee members be included at the end of the document.

MOTION: Commissioner Stamp moved to approve the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management

Practices for Nutrient Utilization as presented. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Vitosh informed the Commission that he would be retiring in June of 1999.

PRESENTATION OF THE MICHIGAN TURKEY INDUSTRY TASK FORCE STATUS REPORT – Robert Craig, Director of the Office of Agriculture Development; Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau; Dr. Allan Rahn, Dr. Laura Martin and Mike Masterovsky, Michigan State University

Robert Craig gave an overview of the status of the turkey industry in Michigan. Ron Nelson of the Michigan Farm Bureau distributed copies of a memorandum summarizing the activities of the Turkey Industry Task Force. The task force, which includes representatives from MSU, MDA and the Michigan Farm Bureau, discussed, evaluated and developed an information base for producers who are experiencing challenges in the turkey industry in Michigan due to the non-renewal of their contracts.

Mr. Nelson commented that the status report does not adequately make known the numerous and frequent industry contacts that took place with growers and processors or the extensive research that was involved in this project. He commented that the status of the turkey industry in Michigan is constantly changing. He thanked MDA and MSU for the cooperative partnership and effort put forth in the development of this report.

Dr. Laura Martin reviewed the information paper "*Michigan's Turkey Industry at a Crossroads*," and Dr. Allan Rahn presented the "*Turkey Industry Task Force Status Report*." As of January 1998, the marketing contracts of five Michigan turkey growers were not renewed. In early 1998, Bil Mar reduced their work force, and in July of 1998 the marketing contracts of an additional four Michigan growers will expire. Collectively, approximately 30 turkey producers in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Ontario will no longer have contracts with Bil Mar by mid-1998.

Director Wyant said one question that needs an answer is what factors put Michigan out of line with the surrounding states and the rest of the nation in respect to transportation, utilities, etc. Michigan has good managers and management is the key, as is technology utilization and the ability to become a low-cost producer.

Mr. Nelson stated one issue is weight restrictions on Michigan roads. The Michigan Farm Bureau has been very active in legislation on that issue. He commented that MDA has been aggressive and active in looking for new processors.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wyant distributed his May monthly activity report and highlighted the following:

State Milk Order: Industry and legislators came together and negotiated a voluntary State Milk Order. Representative Howard Whetters and others in the industry and Legislature deserve much of the credit for working toward a resolution of this issue.

Bob Naerebout of the Independent Co-operatives Milk Producers Association, thanked Director Wyant, Dale Sherwin and the Commission for the work they put forth on this issue.

EPA Meeting: Director Wyant attended a regional EPA meeting in Chicago. Agriculture Directors from the seven states in Region 5 met to discuss water, air, land use and FQPA issues. Michigan's major issue is FQPA, but other states seem to be more concerned with Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). US-EPA has indicated that under the Clean Water Act, CAFOs need to be identified in every state, and a permit program implemented. MDA has been meeting with the animal agriculture industry under the leadership of the Michigan Farm Bureau. The purpose of the meetings is to bring industry together to look at Michigan's response. It is Michigan's desire to have a proactive strategy formulated.

Michigan State Fair: The Michigan State Fair is excited about celebrating its 150th anniversary. State Fair Manager John Hertel has been busy working on promotion and publicity. DNR has provided funds to the State Fair from the Natural Resources Trust Fund to create a 5-acre park on the fairgrounds. The park will include a pond, fish and archery demonstrations, and other outdoor activities. This will be an excellent opportunity for

MDA to showcase agriculture.

FMI Trade Show: This year's show was one of the best and much of the credit goes to the efforts by Denise Yockey. Michigan had an excellent location this year and 18 Michigan firms exhibited. A bus of approximately 30 ag leaders and three legislators attended the show. Michigan's new banner provided great exposure.

Horse Racing: Ladbroke will close its doors at the end of the season and the 250-acre parcel has been sold. MDA continues to look at thoroughbred racing opportunities for Michigan.

Gypsy Moth: Ken Rauscher distributed maps of "*Michigan's Gypsy Moth Suppression Program*". This year acreage was around 79,000, which is up significantly from last year. This is a cooperative program, with a percentage paid by USDA Forest Service. There is a federal quarantine in Michigan that includes the entire lower peninsula, as well as the eastern counties of the Upper Peninsula. Infestation has begun in Menominee County resulting from quarantine efforts in Wisconsin. MDA is looking at the impacts this infestation will have on Michigan's trapping, timber, Christmas tree and nursery industries. MDA continues to work with the Christmas Tree and nursery industries to discuss the quarantine and its impact on transportation of timber and trees. MDA has also been talking with USDA-APHIS on alternatives to quarantining entire counties, possibly limiting the quarantine to smaller areas.

TB Update: Bob Bender, TB Eradication Coordinator, gave additional information to Dr. Chaddock's report to the Commission on the TB situation in Michigan. Approximately 350 deer have been taken under the DNR-issued permits. The DNR is continuing to issue permits, but the number will most likely taper off because farmers are back working in their fields and the foliage makes it more difficult to hunt. He feels that the disease control permits worked well. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is meeting today and tomorrow to adopt fall hunt regulations. The NRC will be discussing an expanded hunt that will be designed to decrease the deer numbers in the area even further. This is part of the overall strategy that was designed to thin out and disperse the herd.

A bill has been introduced and referred to committee that would allow farmers with cattle to take deer without a permit or license. A hearing was held last week and the DNR, MUCC and Mr. Bender testified against the bill. The Michigan Farm Bureau neither supported nor opposed the bill. Representative Tom Alley, who chairs the committee, has indicated that he will hold a hearing in mid-June in the five-county area to receive testimony. Mr. Bender stated that there is continued support and cooperation between all agencies and interest groups. There continues to be concern, however, about the communications, information and education efforts.

Commissioner Tatter asked if there would be adequate monies allocated to complete the testing. Mr. Bender stated that there is \$500,000 earmarked for testing. Director Wyant added that in August those monies will be gone and supplemental funds would need to be approved. Mr. Bender added that assurances have been given on both sides of the Legislature that funds will be appropriated if needed.

Proposed FDA Cider Rules: MDA has worked with industry on this issue and two specific recommendations have been developed. One recommendation is that drop apples cannot be used for unpasteurized cider. This recommendation has received support from a majority of the industry. Second, in addition to labeling requirements, MDA and industry will continue to work on best management practices and HACCP concepts.

Director Wyant announced that Jerry Wojtala was one of three public health workers nationwide who received the FDA Commissioner's Special Citation for his activity and leadership in coordinating state and federal responses to the Hepatitis A outbreak during February of 1997. He also announced that Sandy Hill of Marketing and Communications Division has left the department to run for state office in her district.

UPDATE ON MICHIGAN FESTIVALS AND EVENTS – Sue Bila, Michigan Festivals and Events

Sue Bila distributed copies of the 1998 Directory to Michigan's Festivals and Events, as well as tray liners distributed to McDonald's Michigan restaurants. She said that the 1998 directory has been distributed statewide and the Association has received a tremendous response. Over 365,000 tray liners are being used by McDonald's at various restaurants throughout Michigan. Ms. Bila also said that the Association would be using the "Select Michigan" logo as part of its agricultural promotion. She would like to incorporate more Michigan

farm markets in their promotional activities.

Director Wyant commented that over 70 percent of Michigan festivals incorporate ag-related themes. There are multiple opportunities to tie agriculture tourism and promotion to the mainstream Michigan tourism industry. He stated that part of Michigan agriculture's promotional success is due to the efforts of Sue Bila and the Michigan Festivals and Events Association.

UPDATE ON MOTOR FUEL ENFORCEMENT – Celeste Bennett and Patrick Mercer, Laboratory Division, Weights and Measures Section

Patrick Mercer and Celeste Bennett updated the Commission on a cooperative investigation between the U.S. Secret Service and MDA. Search warrants were issued on two Metro Detroit area gasoline stations suspected of credit card fraud and violations of Michigan's weights and measures and motor fuels quality laws. The Michigan State Police also are investigating possible violations of state laws regarding the transporting of gasoline in unauthorized vehicles. On May 2 search warrants were issued for the Allen Mart and Gas, Inc. and the Ecorse Mart and Gas, Inc. Director Wyant has suspended the license of Allen Mart and Gas, Inc.

Mr. Mercer and Ms. Bennett showed a video of the news coverage by Detroit area TV stations.

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Commissioner Maitland distributed copies of the Grand Traverse Bay "State of the Bay" for 1998. The Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Initiative, Inc., produced the report.

ADJOURN

Motion: Commissioner Maitland moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:43 p.m.. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTACHMENTS

The following documentation is on file in the Michigan Commission of Agriculture office and is available upon request:

Attachment A March 11-12, 1998 Commission of Agriculture Minutes

Attachment B Commission of Agriculture Resolution Honoring Barry Brand

Attachment C Commissioner Jordan Tatter's Monthly Activity Report

Attachment D Legislative Report – April, 1998

Attachment E Joint Committee on Administrative Rules Rescinded

Attachment F Enforced Restriction Area Order White-tailed Deer and Elk

Feeding Ban Normal Agricultural Practices

Attachment G Food Quality Protection Act Grant Proposal

Attachment H April 8, 1998, Memorandum for Secretary Daniel R. Glickman and

Administrator Carol M. Browner from Vice President Gore

Regarding Food Quality Protection

Attachment I April 10, 1998, Memorandum for Vice President Gore from Daniel R. Glickman

and Administrator Carol M. Browner Regarding Food Quality Protection

Attachment J Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for
Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control, May 1998

Attachment K Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for
Nutrient Utilization, May 1998

Attachment L Michigan Turkey Industry Task Force Status Report

Attachment M May 12, 1998 Memorandum to Michigan Commission of Agriculture from
Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau Regarding the Turkey Industry Task Force

Attachment N "Michigan's Turkey Industry at a Crossroads," by Laura L. Martin and
Michael Masterovsky, Michigan State University

Turkey Industry Task Force Status Report

Attachment O Director's Report – May 1998

Attachment P "Michigan's Gypsy Moth Suppression Program" Maps

Attachment Q 1998 Directory—Michigan's Festivals and Events

Attachment R "State of the Bay" 1998 Report, Grand Traverse Bay, Michigan

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